

Minutes of the Regular Work Session of the
Board of Mayor and Aldermen, City of Kingsport, Tennessee
Monday, July 6, 2009, 4:30 PM
Council Room – City Hall

PRESENT:

Board of Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor Dennis R. Phillips
Alderman Valerie Joh
Vice-Mayor Benjamin K. Mallicote

Alderman Larry A. Munsey
Alderman Jantry Shupe

City Administration

John G. Campbell, City Manager
J. Michael Billingsley, City Attorney
James H. Demming, City Recorder

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 4:35 p.m., by Mayor Phillips. Mayor Phillips welcomed to the table newly elected alderman, Tom Parham.
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy City Recorder Gilbert. Absent: Alderman Charles K. Marsh, Jr. and Alderman Patrick W. Shull.
3. **ETSU UPDATE ON EFFECT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL TO THE REGION.** Dr. Paul Stanton, President of East Tennessee State University (ETSU), and Dr. Philip Bagnell, Dean of the Quillen College of Medicine, provided information to the Board and audience regarding medical education in Sullivan County; primarily addressing regional funding availability and critical training sites for medical students.

Mayor Phillips stated that it's his understanding that there is a shortage of physicians and asked why the Quillen medical school does not educate a greater number of students. Dr. Bagnell responded that their goal and capacity is up to 75 students and do not accept a great number because of quality training sites to retain the medical school's accreditation status. Dr. Bagnell's presentation had addressed the rigid requirements for reaching and maintaining the accreditation level, as well as the difficulty in finding resources to run two medical schools located so close in such a sparsely populated area.

Dr. Greg Jordan, President of King College, spoke about the availability of student training sites to medical schools that establish a clinical affiliation with existing teaching hospitals.

Mayor Phillips summed up this discussion by noting this issue deserves more attention than can be given at today's work session. He thanked those involved for the information provided and explained that this stage is merely allowing the BMA to express its support for this potential medical school opportunity going forward.

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4. MOVETOKINGPORT.COM UPDATE. Mr. Jeff Fleming, Director of Development Services and Assistant City Manager for Economic Development, went over a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the positive effects of this program. The information named the top donor states from which families have moved to the Kingsport area from July 2006 through June 2009, as well as statistics on new residential water taps, new construction and percentage of population growth.

5. WORK SESSION TICKLER. Public Works Director Ryan McReynolds spoke about the status of the Netherland Inn Road Bridge project and the need to paint the older remaining portion of the previous bridge.

6. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS ON JULY 7, 2009 REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA. City Manager Campbell, members of staff and community members provided a summary or presentation for each item on the proposed agenda. Those items the Board discussed at greater length or which received specific questions or concerns included:

VI.D.10 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute all Necessary and Proper Documents to Establish a Retiree Health Saving Plan for the Employees of the City of Kingsport (AF: 216-2009). City Recorder Demming explained how this plan would be implemented and utilized, as well as the need to satisfy OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) obligations under GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board). Board members discussed the financial obligation and benefits associated with establishing this plan. Mr. Chris Solimine of ICMA (International City/County Management Association) was in attendance to address Board member's questions and concerns.

VI.D.13 Consideration of a Resolution Endorsing the King College Medical School Initiative (AF: 244-2009). Mayor Phillips stated that Sullivan County Mayor Steve Godsey had indicated the Sullivan County Commission will not approve this and the proposed resolution will need to be revised to exclude the language, "*WHEREAS, the locally-elected leaders of Kingsport, Bristol, and Sullivan County desire to endorse this medical school initiative.*" City Attorney Billingsley indicated that he would revise for the Board's consideration at tomorrow night's business meeting.

VI.D.14 Consideration of a Resolution to Offer a Retirement Incentive to Eligible Employees (AF: 242-2009). City Manager Campbell explained the details of how this retirement incentive is set up and how savings may be realized through changing current full-time positions to part-time positions as long-time/eligible employees take advantage of this offer.

7. RIVERWALK PROJECT UPDATE. Mr. Chris McCartt, Assistant to the City Manager, provided updated information on the status of this project and the progress achieved on various stages. He mentioned that the project's "master plan" has identified three major road improvements with this redevelopment district: 1) the proposed roundabout to be constructed at the intersection of Center Street/Industry

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Drive and Netherland Inn Road; 2) future access to Stone Drive from Netherland Inn Road; and 3) Netherland Inn Road in front of the Netherland Road Inn, with construction of the roundabout to begin in January of 2010.

8. ROADS UPDATE. Mr. Michael Thompson, Assistant Public Works Director, went over the status of and issues involved with moving forward with various road projects such as Cleek Road Phase I, Harbor Chapel Road Phase I, Center/Clinchfield Street, and Rock Springs Road. He described various resurfacing projects around the area, especially Center Street from Fort Henry Drive to Memorial Boulevard, which section is in dire need of resurfacing. Mayor Phillips expressed concern about the condition of Riverport Road and the need to add riprap to the riverbank to prevent further erosion.

9. ADJOURN. Seeing no other matters presented for discussion at this work session, Mayor Phillips adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Gilbert
ELIZABETH A. GILBERT
Deputy City Recorder



Dennis R. Phillips
DENNIS R. PHILLIPS
Mayor